

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10

SS-15 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 NEA-10 PM-07 DODE-00

PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /190 W

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P 111521Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 126

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E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AU

SUBJ: OPEC NEGOTIATIONS WITH OIL COMPANIES

1. FROM INFORMAL EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS WITH OPEC SEC GEN DR. KHENE, FOLLOWING PICTURE EMERGES ON CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH OIL COMPANIES. (PARTICIPANTS IN NEGOTIATIONS REPORTED SEPT EL.) OIL COMPANIES HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO CHANGE INFLATIONARY FACTOR BUILT INTO TEHRAN AGREEMENT AT WELL AS POSTED PRICES. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE RECESSED SINCE COMPANY REPS HAVE CABLED THEIR HEADQUARTERS FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, BUT DR. KHENE HOPEFUL THEY CAN RESUME TODAY. HE SAID OPEC HOPED NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE COMPLETED IN A FEW DAYS SINCE OPEC PARTICIPANTS HAVE OTHER COMMITMENTS INCLUDING ATTENDANCE BY MINISTERS AT EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF ARAB COUNTRY OIL MINISTERS IN KUWAIT. HE DID NOT KNOW DATE OF THIS MEETING.

2. KHENE EMPHASIZED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE BEING HELD IN VERY CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE, AND WAR HAD NOT RPT NOT ENTERED INTO DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID OPEC WAS ASSIDUOUSLY AVOIDING INSERTION OF POLITICAL ISSUES INTO NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE CONCENTRATING ON TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS AND WERE CONCENTRATING ON TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC

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MATTERS AND WERE RELATED ONLY TO TEHRAN AGREEMENT. HE BEMOANED FACT

THAT PRESS WAS LOOKING FOR DRAMATIC STORY RELATING OIL PRICE
NEGOTIATIONS TO WAR SITUATION AND REITERATED OPEC'S SOLE INTEREST
WAS TO FIND WORKABLE ARRANGEMENT WITH OIL COMPANIES.

3. DEPT REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE. MOWINCKEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENNA08409
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731037/aaaabbhy.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30-Oct-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPEC NEGOTIATIONS WITH OIL COMPANIES
TAGS: ENRG, AU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005